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State of New Hampshire

Department of Safety

Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services

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Richard A. Mason
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MEMORANDUM

TO: NH EMS Unit Leaders
NH EMS Hospital Coordinators
NH Regional Chairs

FROM: Sue Prentiss, BA, NREMT-P, Chief
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services
(FST & EMS)

RE: Interim Rules – 2005 HB 257 - statewide protocols

DATE: May 26, 2006

As you may know, the EMS Bureau has been working on the implementation of statewide protocols since January 2005. As this is a significant change for the EMS community, bi-monthly reports have been sent to each EMS Head of Unit, hospital EMS Coordinators and Regional Chairs in an effort to keep everyone informed about the process. These reports have included information on the creation of the Commissioner's Ad Hoc Committee, the Committee's recommendations to eliminate "local option" protocols and the legislative effort that followed. I would now like to take this time to fully recap the rules changes, public hearing process and effects from rules implementation.

In order to operationalize a system of statewide protocols, changes to the Administrative Rules (Saf-C 5900) are required. The elimination of "local option" must be addressed specific to the authority and protection for protocols, education and training programs, advanced life support equipment and quality management. Currently, we are operating with a system of "Interim Rules", which are valid for six months, in the meantime the process of "Permanent Rule" making has started. "Permanent Rule" making includes a period for public hearings/comments. Dates and times for the public hearings will be brought to your attention as they are scheduled.

Fire Training – Certification – Fire Academy – Emergency Medical Services

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TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964

www.state.nh.us/safety/fst

As of this date, here are the key points you need to know:

- Protocols are now statewide.
- Three protocols require “prerequisites” (RSI, EMT-I Intubation, and Vaccinations). Prerequisites are defined in RSA 153-A:2 “XVI-a. “Prerequisite means the education or demonstrated proficiency required as a prior condition to performing select skills or procedures contained in the standardized protocols issued by the emergency medical services medical control board.” Administrative Rule contains the educational elements and skill proficiency required by the Medical Control Board (MCB) and the Bureau of EMS has developed a process for the maintenance of the prerequisites. Any Unit looking to have prerequisites approved for their Unit must apply to the Division of FST & EMS.
- Previously, skills, therapies, and/or modalities not contained in the Department of Transportation (DOT) EMS curricula received their authority through “local option” at the Medical Resource Hospital (MRH) level. As local option has been eliminated, these skills will be maintained through required educational modules as developed by the Bureau of EMS. These “transition modules” are now to be included in each EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and EMT-Paramedic initial training, and during the refresher training period.
- Implementation options for the transition modules include: free-standing “transition” courses, integration into regular monthly training, or inclusion in refresher programs. For initial certification, module completion will be enforced as of August 1, 2006. For certification renewal, module completion will be required at the time of your next refresher training/recertification. By March 31, 2008, all providers currently in the system must be updated.

Transition Module Breakdown

<i>EMT Basic</i>	<i>EMT-Intermediate</i>	<i>EMT-Paramedic</i>
Advanced Spinal Assessment ASA Anaphylaxis Blind Insertion Airways Blood Glucose Monitoring Cyanide Kit ECG Lead Placement Mark-1 Kit Trach Maintenance	All EMT-B Modules EMT-I Pharmacology EMT-I Cardiology LMA	Advanced Spinal Assessment Blind Insertion Airways Blood Glucose Monitoring CPAP Cyanide Kit LMA Mark-1 Kit Cricothyrotomy

- There will be a required protocol exam for initial and re-licensure of EMS providers at the EMT-Basic, Intermediate and Paramedic levels. This exam will be available through the TEMSIS Knowledgebase System and can be completed on-line from anywhere in the state (instructions attached). For initial applicants, the protocol examination must be completed on or after August 1, 2006. For those renewing licensure, the examination must be completed at the time of your license renewal.
- Advanced Life Support equipment was previously the responsibility of the local hospital and was part of the MRH agreement. This is now the responsibility of FST & EMS. Updated inspection lists will be available on the web and is also enclosed. Starting August 1, 2006, vehicle inspection standards will reflect what is in interim rule.

- The definition of Head of Unit and Medical Director have been changed to include collaboration, specifically between the two parties.
- Medical Resource Hospital agreements with EMS Units will not include protocols and ALS equipment as they have in the past, again FST & EMS will be in charge of this. However, these agreements will include how patient information will be shared, what medications will be issued and authorized (based on the "Approved Pre-Hospital Medications" list) and provisions for "off-line" Medical Control, including; education, advice, critiques, medications, treatment modalities and performance improvement.
- EMS Units that choose to initiate Quality Management programs now have protection under the law. The interim rules provide the minimum elements for a program that a Unit would need to use.

A copy of the "Interim Rule" is enclosed along with a more detailed summary for your review. These rules will also be available on the Bureau web site. The Bureau of EMS will keep you posted during the implementation and the "Permanent Rule" development process, including the schedule of public hearings. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments and/or concerns that you may have at (603) 271-4568.

Bureau web site address: www.state.nh.us/safety/ems

Enclosures:

- Interim Rule
- Interim Rule Summary
- Required Equipment List
- Unit Report (May 2006)

NHBEMS PROTOCOL EXAM INSTRUCTIONS:

FOR CURRENTLY LICENSED PROVIDERS

1. Log in to TEMSIS
2. Click on Knowledgebase
3. Click on your level of licensure
4. Take test

TEMSIS will record your grade

FOR NEW USERS (in process of licensure)

1. Log in to TEMSIS at www.nhtemsis.org

Username: "applicant"

Password: "applicant"

2. Click on Knowledgebase
3. Click on your level of certification
4. Take Test
5. Once successfully completed, print out certificate at the end of the test and attach it to your application – submit to Bureau of EMS.